

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00607 01 OF 02 301421Z

64

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 OPIC-12 CIEP-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00

INT-08 FEA-02 AID-20 IGA-02 AGR-20 STR-08 SWF-02

DRC-01 /190 W

----- 068791

R 301300Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4483

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUJUMBURA 0607

SECVISIT: UNGA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BY, US, UNGA

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FONMIN SIMBANANIYE

REF: A. BUJUMBURA 556; B. STATE 170108

SUMMARY: MAIN BURUNDI INTEREST IN CURRENT UNGA SESSION IS TO SHARE IN LARGESSE WHICH GRB HOPES WILL BE GRANTED TO MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED LDC'S. REVIEW OF U.S.-BURUNDI BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH SIMBANANIYE PRODUCED EXPRESSIONS OF GRB GOOD WILL AND PROMISES OF GENEROUS APPROACH TO FOREIGN INVESTORS. SIMBANANIYE REQUESTED MEETING WITH SECRETARY, AND SAID HE WOULD GLADLY TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON FOR APPOINTMENT IF TOO LATE TO SEE SECRETARY IN NEW YORK. END SUMMARY

1. HOUR-LONG CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN SIMBANANIYE SEPT. 28 COVERED BOTH USUAL PROTOCOLARY GROUND OF INITIAL FORMAL MEETING BETWEEN NEW AMBASSADOR AND FONMIN AS WELL AS NUMBER OF SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS. SIMBANANIYE APOLOGIZED FOR LONG DELAY IN ARRANGING VISIT, BUT
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUJUMB 00607 01 OF 02 301421Z

ASCRIBED IT (NOT ENTIRELY ACCURATELY) TO HIS ABSENCES FROM BURUNDI. HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN DETERMINED, HOWEVER, NOT TO LEAVE FOR

UNGA WITHOUT PERSONAL CONVERSATION (AND, INDEED, AFTER I LEFT, THE NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS IN THE SAME BOAT REGARDING CONTACT WITH FONMIN, GOT HIS THIRTY MINUTES).

2. I RECALLED LETTER WHICH EMBASSY HAD SENT TO FONOFF DIRGEN FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS SOME WEEKS AGO OUTLINING AMERICAN POSITIONS ON VARIOUS UNGA ISSUES (REF A). I ADDED THAT I WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS ANY PARTICULAR POINTS WHICH SIMBANANIYE FELT WOULD BE USEFUL. MOREOVER, I HOPED THAT GRB DEL IN NEW YORK WOULD ESTABLISH CLOSE CONTACT WITH USUN FOR CONSULTATION ON MANY AGENDA ITEMS, EVEN THOUGH WE KNEW THAT THERE WOULD BE BOTH AGREEMENTS AND DISAGREEMENTS OF POSITION.

3. SIMBANANIYE STARTED OFF BY EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR NORMALIZATION OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH GRB AND THEN LAUNCHED INTO STANDARD EXPOSITION

OF BURUNDI'S PLIGHT. IT IS NOT ONLY A SMALL AND POOR COUNTRY BUT HAS EXTRA HANDICAP OF BEING LANDLOCKED. TO IMPROVE ITS LOT, IT SEEKS DEVELOPMENT OF ITS RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE NEW NICKEL DEPOSITS, AND WELCOMES OUTSIDE HELP AS LONG AS ITS INDEPENDENCE IS RESPECTED.

4. REGARDING UNGA, BURUNDI SHARES THE OUTLOOK OF OTHER NON-ALIGNED STATES ON KEY ISSUES. RIGHT NOW, THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ARE WORLDWIDE INFLATION, A RISE IN ENERGY COSTS, AND THE INCESSANT INCREASES

IN THE PROCES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS WHICH BURUNDI IMPORTS. CLEARLY BURUNDI NEEDS MAJOR HELP AND LOOKS TO THE GA TO ADOPT THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR GETTING EXTRA ASSISTANCE TO SUCH POOR LDC'S AS BURUNDI. OF COURSE, HE WOULD ALSO USE HIS

PRESENCE IN THE U.S. TO SEE PEOPLE IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, THE WORLD BANK, AND PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN WHO COULD HELP ON THE NICKEL PROJECT. (THE ABOVE-NOTED REQUEST FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH THE SECRETARY CAME AT A LATER POINT IN THE CONVERSATION. SIMBANANIYE LEFT BUJUMBURA SEPTEMBER 30 FOR NEW YORK AND IS EXPECTED TO SPEND THREE OR FOUR WEEKS THERE.)

5. I REPLIED THAT THE QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL AID FOR THOSE LDC'S IN THE MSA CATEGORY WAS A COMPLICATED ONE. FOR EXAMPLE, BURUNDI ITSELF WAS NOT TOO BADLY HIT BY HIGH OIL PRICES SINCE IT ONLY
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUJUMB 00607 01 OF 02 301421Z

USED ABOUT 700 BARRELS OF OIL PER DAY; BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PRICE RECEIVED FOR COFFEE, FAR AND AWAY ITS PRINCIPAL EXPORT, HAD RECENTLY DROPPED ALMOST 30 PERCENT WHILE THE PRICES OF IMPORTED GOODS WERE INCREASING RAPIDLY. DRAWING ON STATE 212423, I SAID THAT SUPPLEMENTARY AID TO MSA'S SHOULD COME FROM OPEC COUNTRIES WHICH WERE AMASSING SUCH HIGH RESERVES THAT IN MOST CASES THEY COULD NOT POSSIBLY

USE THEM UP FOR DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COULD GRANT SOME OF THOSE FUNDS TO LDC'S WITHOUT ANY STRAIN. THE UNITED STATES WAS ALREADY CONTRIBUTING HEAVILY TO LDC'S THROUGH ITS REGULAR AID PROGRAMS

AND WAS NOT INCLINED TO JOIN IN SPECIAL DONATIONS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE FOURFOLD INCREASE IN PETROLEUM PRICES. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT FORD HAD SPOKEN OF THE EMPHASIS WHICH THE U.S. WILL PUT ON FOOD AID, FOOD STOCKPILES, AND TECHNICAL HELP IN FOOD PRODUCTION. THIS APPROACH WOULD CERTAINLY BE OF INTEREST TO BURUNDI, WHICH CURRENTLY IS FACING FOOD SHORTAGES. SIMBANANIYE DID NOT COMMENT ON THESE OBSERVATIONS.

6. I WENT ON TO NOTE U.S. SATISFACTION AT THE DISCOVERY IN BURUNDI OF HIGH NICKEL DEPOSITS, WHICH CREATED AN ENTIRELY NEW PERSPECTIVE FOR THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE. NEVERTHELESS, THE REQUIREMENT OF INVESTMENTS OF PERHAPS \$500 MILLION TO PERMIT EXPLOITATION OF THE DEPOSITS, ALONG WITH THE MANY TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES OF ENERGY SUPPLY FOR A NICKEL REFINERY, OF THE LONG DISTANCE TO A SEAPORT, OF THE LACK OF ANY TRAINED MANPOWER, AND OF THE WEAKNESSES OF INFRASTRUCTURE MEANT THAT ANY WOULD-BE INVESTORS HAD TO BE VERY CAUTIOUS BEFORE COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO SUCH A DIFFICULT AND EXPENSIVE PROJECT. THIS WAS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN THE PRESENT STATE OF THE WORLD NICKEL MARKET WHICH, UNLIKE PETROLEUM, WAS NOT PARTICULARLY TIGHT, AND FOR WHICH THE PROBLEM OF ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES WOULD ONLY BECOME SERIOUS IN THE 1980'S. THUS, IF BURUNDI HOPED TO ATTRACT INVESTORS, IT WOULD HAVE TO OFFER THE PROSPECT OF MODERATE GRB ECONOMIC POLICIES, OF REASONABLE

PROFITS, AND OF ASSURED DOMESTIC STABILITY. I ADDED THAT AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN WERE ALREADY ASKING AMERICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING ME, WHETHER BURUNDI WAS LIKELY TO REMAIN INTERNALLY STABLE SINCE THIS WAS A PREREQUISITE FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION OF MAJOR INVESTMENT. I SAID THAT I WAS TOO NEW ON THE SCENE YET TO GIVE A REPLY BUT THAT I RECOGNIZED THAT THE GRB WOULD HAVE TO CONVINCE
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BUJUMB 00607 01 OF 02 301421Z

POTENTIAL INVESTORS ON THIS POINT.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00607 02 OF 02 301913Z

64

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 OPIC-12 CIEP-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00

INT-08 FEA-02 AID-20 IGA-02 AGR-20 STR-08 SWF-02

DRC-01 /190 W

----- 071807

R 301300Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUJUMBURA 0607

7. SIMBANANIYE INSISTED THAT NO FUTURE PROBLEMS WITH DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY WOULD ARISE, UNLESS THERE WAS AGAIN AS IN 1972 "OUTSIDE INSTIGATION, OF WHICH THE GRB HAS MUCH PROOF." THE GOVERNMENT WAS DEDICATED TO MAINTAINING PEACE AND ORDER AT HOME, AND IT WOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW GENEROUS POLICIES WITH REGARD TO FOREIGN INVESTORS. HE WAS SURE, AS I TRAVELED AROUND BURUNDI, THAT I WOULD SEE THAT THE SITUATION IS ENTIRELY RELAXED AND QUIET.

8. COMMENT: FROM SIMBANANIYE'S REMARKS, IT IS APPARENT THAT THE BURUNDI DELEGATION TO THE UNGA WILL CONTINUE TO ADOPT POSITIONS ON THE BASIS OF MAINTAINING SOLIDARITY WITH OTHER "PROGRESSIVE" NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES AND LDC'S (ESPECIALLY OTHER AFRICAN STATES) RATHER THAN ON THE BASIS OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MERIT OF COMPETING APPROACHES TO VARIOUS QUESTIONS. SIMBANANIYE HIMSELF WILL UNDOUBTEDLY USE HIS TIME IN NEW YORK TO POLITIC WITH OTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS IN ORDER TO ENHANCE BURUNDI'S POSITION AND TO GAIN TANGIBLE BENEFITS FOR BURUNDI'S ECONOMY. TO THE EXTENT THAT HE CAN SCORE VISIBLE SUCCESSES ON EITHER COUNT, HE MAY BE ABLE TO RE-INGRATiate HIMSELF WITH PRESIDENT MICOMBERO AND THUS CHECK THE DECLINE IN HIS PERSONAL POLITICAL FORTUNES WITHIN THE GRB THAT HAS BEEN SO APPARENT OVER THE LAST SIX WEEKS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUJUMB 00607 02 OF 02 301913Z

9. I THINK THE POINT GOT ACROSS THAT, IN OUR VIEW, THE MERE FACT THAT BURUNDI NOW HAS IN NICKEL A MAJOR EXPLOITABLE RESOURCE DOES NOT MEAN EITHER THAT IT HAS AN EASY ROAD AHEAD OR THAT IT CAN BE INDIFFERENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND ETHNIC JUSTICE AT HOME. WHEN SIMBANANIYE AGAIN ASCRIBED THE 1972 KILLINGSTO "OUTSIDE INSTIGATION," I CONSIDERED TAKING HIM UP ON SOME OF THE CONTINUING DOMESTIC INEQUITIES WHICH SURELY LIE AT THE BOTTOM OF MUCH OF THE PAST TROUBLE HERE. HOWEVER, I THOUGHT THAT I HAD PRESSED HIM HARD ENOUGH FOR OUR INITIAL MEETING AND THAT I WILL

HAVE FUTURE OCCASION TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT IN MORE DEPTH. END
COMMENT.
MARK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, NICKEL, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUJUMB00607
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740275-0948
From: BUJUMBURA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974094/aaaaacqx.tel
Line Count: 226
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. BUJUMBURA 556; B. STATE 170108
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH FONMIN SIMBANANIYE
TAGS: PFOR, BY, US, UNGA, (SIMBANANIYE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005